

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A television program guide system implemented on user television equipment, comprising:

means for providing an option for a user to create a preference profile that is indicative of the user's television programming interests;

means for providing an option for the user to display a hot list a predetermined period of time before the scheduled broadcast times of programs on the hot list;

means for providing an option for the user to adjust the predetermined period of time; and

means for displaying the hot list of programs on the user television equipment, wherein all of the programs on the hot list are based on the preference profile and all of the programs on the hot list are substantially currently available for viewing by the user.

2. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to create the preference profile further comprises:

means for providing an option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes that are indicative of the user's television programming interests; and

means for providing an option for the user to select one of at least several preference levels for each of the plurality of selected preference attributes, wherein the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated with the preference profile.

3. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 further comprising means for providing an option of selecting a preference scope that is associated with the preference profile.

4. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein there are multiple profiles, the system further comprising means for providing an option of selecting which of the profiles to make active.

5. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 4 further comprising means for turning on an auto-reminders feature.

6. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 5 wherein a given one of the profiles is active, the system further comprising means for displaying automatic reminders when the auto-reminders feature is turned on based on the active profile just prior to the scheduled broadcast times of programs satisfying the active profile.

7. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 6 further comprising:

means for providing a view now option for programs for which automatic reminders are displayed; and

means for tuning to a given one of the programs for which the automatic reminders are displayed when the user selects the view now option for that program.

8. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 4 wherein at least two of the preference profiles are active, and wherein the means for displaying the hot list of programs based on the at least two preference profiles further comprises means for indicating which of the programs in the hot list of programs satisfy which of the preference profiles.

9. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 8 wherein the means for indicating comprises means for listing the programs that satisfy one of the two profiles using one color and the programs that satisfy the other of the two profiles using another color.

10. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 8 wherein the means for indicating comprises means for listing the programs that satisfy one of the two profiles using one pattern and the programs that satisfy the other of the two profiles using another pattern.

11. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 8 wherein the means for indicating comprises

means for listing the programs that satisfy one of the two profiles using one icon and the programs that satisfy the other of the two profiles using another icon.

12. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 4 wherein the means for displaying the hot list of programs further comprises means for displaying the hot list of programs based on the multiple profiles.

13. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 4 further comprising means for allowing tuning to certain channels based on the multiple profiles.

14. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising means for allowing the user to tune to a selected program, wherein the means for providing the option of creating the preference profile further comprises means for creating the preference profile based on characteristics of the selected program.

15. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 14 wherein the means for creating the preference profile based on the characteristics of the selected program further comprises means for creating the preference profile based on the title of the selected program.

16. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 14 wherein the means for creating the preference profile based on the characteristics of the selected

program further comprises means for creating the preference profile based on the genre of the selected program.

17. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 14 wherein the means for creating the preference profile based on the characteristics of the selected program further comprises means for creating the preference profile based on the channel of the selected program.

18. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 14 wherein the means for creating the preference profile based on the characteristics of the selected program further comprises means for creating the preference profile based on the rating of the selected program.

19. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising means for allowing the user to highlight a given program listing, wherein the means for providing the option of creating the preference profile further comprises means for creating the preference profile based on characteristics of the highlighted program listing.

20. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 19 wherein the means for creating the preference profile based on the characteristics of the highlighted program listing further comprises means for creating the preference profile based on the title of the highlighted program listing.

21. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 19 wherein the means for creating the

preference profile based on the characteristics of the highlighted program listing further comprises means for creating the preference profile based on the genre of the highlighted program listing.

22. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 19 wherein the means for creating the preference profile based on the characteristics of the highlighted program listing further comprises means for creating the preference profile based on the channel of the highlighted program listing.

23. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 19 wherein the means for creating the preference profile based on the characteristics of the highlighted program listing further comprises means for creating the preference profile based on the rating of the highlighted program listing.

24. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising:

means for allowing the user to tune to a selected program; and

means for modifying a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated based on the characteristics of the selected program.

25. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising:

means for allowing the user to highlight a given program listing; and

means for modifying a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated based on the characteristics of the highlighted program listing.

26. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising means for providing a profiles display with which the user may modify a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated.

27-28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the means for displaying the hot list further comprises means for providing the hot list sorted by start time.

30. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein the means for displaying the hot list further comprises means for displaying the hot list sorted by channel.

31. (Currently amended) The television program guide system defined in claim [[28]] 1 wherein the means for displaying the hot list further comprises means for displaying the hot list sorted by priority.

32. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 31 wherein the means for

displaying the hot list sorted by priority further comprises means for displaying the hot list with pay-per-view programming having highest priority and being listed first.

33. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 further comprising means for allowing tuning to certain channels based on the selected preference attributes and selected preference levels.

34. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 33 further comprising means for providing an option of specifying a sort order for each of the selected preference attributes.

35. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 34 further comprising means for allowing tuning to certain channels based on the specified sort order.

36. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising means for monitoring which programs are watched by the user.

37. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 36 wherein the means for monitoring which programs are watched by the user further comprises means for monitoring viewing times, channels, and frequencies.

38. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 36 further comprising means for automatically modifying a preference profile based on which programs are watched by the user.

39. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 38 further comprising means for providing an opportunity to review and modify automatic profile modifications made by the means for automatically modifying.

40. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 38 further comprising means for disabling the means for automatically modifying.

41. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising means for providing a personal identification number setup screen.

42. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 41 wherein the means for providing the personal identification number setup screen further comprises means for providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile.

43. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 42 wherein the means for providing the personal identification number options further comprises means for setting whether a personal identification number is required for activating the profile.

44. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 42 wherein the means for providing the personal identification number options further comprises means for setting whether a personal identification number is required for deactivating the profile.

45. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 further comprising means for providing a personal identification number setup screen, wherein the means for providing the personal identification number options further comprises:

means for providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

means for setting whether a personal identification number is required for viewing which preference attributes are associated with the profile.

46. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 further comprising means for providing a personal identification number setup screen, wherein the means for providing the personal identification number options further comprises:

means for providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

means for setting whether a personal identification number is required for modifying which preference attributes have an associated preference level of illegal.

47. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 further comprising means for providing a personal identification number setup screen, wherein the means for providing the personal identification number options further comprises:

means for providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

means for setting whether a personal identification number is required for modifying which preference attributes have an associated preference level of mandatory.

48. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 further comprising means for providing a personal identification number setup screen, wherein the means for providing the personal identification number options further comprises:

means for providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

means for setting whether a personal identification number is required for modifying like and dislike preference levels.

49. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a given airing of a program as a preference attribute.

50. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 49 further comprising means for allowing the given airing of the program selected as a preference attribute to expire after the program has been aired.

51. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a broadcast characteristic as a preference attribute.

52. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 51 wherein the means for providing the option of selecting a broadcast characteristic as a preference attribute further comprises means for providing closed-captioning as a preference attribute.

53. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 51 wherein the means for providing the option of selecting a broadcast characteristic as a preference attribute further comprises means for providing second audio program as a preference attribute.

54. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 further comprising means for

providing an option of specifying a sort order for each of the selected preference attributes.

55. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 54 further comprising means for displaying the list of programming based on the specified sort order.

56. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 further comprising means for providing the user with an option of selecting a preference scope.

57. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 56 further comprising means for displaying the list of programming based on the selected preference scope.

58. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 56 further comprising means for allowing tuning to certain channels based on the selected preference scope.

59. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 56 wherein the means for providing the user with the option of selecting the preference scope further comprises means for selecting a preference scope selected from the group consisting of: narrow scope, moderate scope, and wide scope.

60. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 56 wherein the preference levels include like, dislike, illegal, and mandatory, and wherein the means for providing the user with the option of selecting the preference

scope further comprises means for selecting a preference scope that includes liked programs that are not more disliked and that have all mandatory attributes and no illegal attributes.

61. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 56 wherein the preference levels include like, dislike, illegal, and mandatory, and wherein the means for providing the user with the option of selecting the preference scope further comprises means for selecting a preference scope that includes programs that have no disliked preference attributes and that have all mandatory attributes and no illegal attributes.

62. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 56 wherein the preference levels include like, dislike, illegal, and mandatory, and wherein the means for providing the user with the option of selecting the preference scope further comprises means for selecting a preference scope that includes programs that have all mandatory attributes and no illegal attributes.

63. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a type of channel as a preference attribute.

64. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference

attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a program series as a preference attribute.

65. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a genre of programming as a preference attribute.

66. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting at least one rating as a preference attribute.

67. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a given actor or actress as a preference attribute.

68. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a given topic as a preference attribute.

69. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of

selecting a word in a program description as a preference attribute.

70. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a given program start time as a preference attribute.

71. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a range of broadcast times as a preference attribute.

72. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting original programming as a preference attribute.

73. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a given language as a preference attribute.

74. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the means for providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises means for providing an option of selecting a critics rating as a preference attribute.

75. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 further comprising means for providing an option of deselecting at least one of the selected preference attributes.

76. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the preference levels include at least like and dislike.

77. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the preference levels include at least strong like and weak like.

78. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein the preference levels include at least strong dislike and weak dislike.

79-83. (Canceled)

84. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising means for providing an option for creating a master preference profile.

85. (Original) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein a plurality of preference profiles including a master preference profile are active, the system further comprising means for resolving conflicts between preference profiles in favor of the master preference profile.

86. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 wherein a master preference profile that is accessed by a master personal identification number is used to define certain television viewing

preferences, the system further comprising means for displaying the hot list of programs based on the master profile.

87. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 2 wherein a master preference profile that is accessed by a master personal identification number is used to define certain television viewing preferences, the means for displaying the hot list of programs further comprising means for displaying the hot list of programs based on selected preference attributes and selected preference levels in the master profile.

88. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising means for providing an opportunity for setting non-program settings associated with the preference profile.

89. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising means for providing an opportunity for setting non-program settings associated with the preference profile, wherein the non-program settings include audio settings for the user television equipment.

90. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising means for providing an opportunity for setting non-program settings associated with the preference profile, wherein the non-program settings include display settings.

91. (Previously presented) The television program guide system defined in claim 1 further comprising:

means for providing an opportunity for creating multiple preference profiles;

means for providing an option of selecting which of the profiles to make active; and

means for providing access to a messaging service based on information on which profile is active.

92-180. (Canceled)

181. (Previously presented) The television program guide system of claim 1, wherein the hot list includes at least one program with an active non-expired reminder.

182. (Previously presented) The television program guide system of claim 1 further comprising means for allowing the user to tune to a program on the hot list.

183. (Previously presented) The television program guide system of claim 1 further comprising means for allowing the user to direct the television program guide system to display the hot list.

184. (Currently amended) A method for using a television program guide system implemented on user television equipment, the method comprising:

providing an option for a user to create a preference profile that is indicative of the user's television programming interests;

providing an option for the user to display a hot list a predetermined period of time before the scheduled broadcast times of programs on the hot list;

providing an option for the user to adjust the predetermined period of time; and

displaying the hot list of programs on the user television equipment, wherein all of the programs on the hot list are based on the user's preference profile and all of the programs on the hot list are substantially currently available for viewing by the user.

185. (Previously presented) The method of claim 184 wherein providing the option for the user to create the preference profile further comprises:

providing an option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes that are indicative of the user's television programming interests; and

providing an option for the user to select one of at least several preference levels for each of the plurality of selected preference attributes, wherein the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated with the preference profile.

186. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 further comprising providing an option of selecting a preference scope that is associated with the preference profile.

187. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 wherein there are multiple profiles, the method further comprising providing an option of selecting which of the profiles to make active.

188. (Previously presented) The method of claim 187 further comprising turning on an auto-reminders feature.

189. (Previously presented) The method of claim 188 wherein a given one of the profiles is active, the method further comprising displaying automatic reminders when the auto-reminders feature is turned on based on the active profile just prior to the scheduled broadcast times of programs satisfying the active profile.

190. (Previously presented) The method of claim 189 further comprising:

providing a view now option for programs for which automatic reminders are displayed; and

tuning to a given one of the programs for which the automatic reminders are displayed when the user selects the view now option for that program.

191. (Previously presented) The method of claim 187 wherein at least two of the preference profiles are active, and wherein displaying the hot list of programs based on the at least two preference profiles further comprises indicating which of the programs in the hot list of programs satisfy which of the preference profiles.

192. (Previously presented) The method of claim 191 wherein indicating comprises listing the programs that satisfy one of the two profiles using one color and the programs that satisfy the other of the two profiles using another color.

193. (Previously presented) The method of claim 191 wherein indicating comprises listing the programs that satisfy one of the two profiles using one pattern and the programs that satisfy the other of the two profiles using another pattern.

194. (Previously presented) The method of claim 191 wherein indicating comprises listing the programs that satisfy one of the two profiles using one icon and the programs that satisfy the other of the two profiles using another icon.

195. (Previously presented) The method of claim 187 wherein displaying the hot list of programs further comprises displaying the hot list of programs based on the multiple profiles.

196. (Previously presented) The method of claim 187 further comprising allowing tuning to certain channels based on the multiple profiles.

197. (Previously presented) The method of claim 184 further comprising allowing the user to tune to a selected program, wherein providing the option of creating the preference profile further comprises creating the preference profile based on characteristics of the selected program.

198. (Previously presented) The method of claim 197 wherein creating the preference profile based on the

characteristics of the selected program further comprises creating the preference profile based on the title of the selected program.

199. (Previously presented) The method of claim 197 wherein creating the preference profile based on the characteristics of the selected program further comprises creating the preference profile based on the genre of the selected program.

200. (Previously presented) The method of claim 197 wherein creating the preference profile based on the characteristics of the selected program further comprises creating the preference profile based on the channel of the selected program.

201. (Previously presented) The method of claim 197 wherein creating the preference profile based on the characteristics of the selected program further comprises creating the preference profile based on the rating of the selected program.

202. (Previously presented) The method of claim 184 further comprising allowing the user to highlight a given program listing, wherein providing the option of creating the preference profile further comprises creating the preference profile based on characteristics of the highlighted program listing.

203. (Previously presented) The method of claim 202 wherein creating the preference profile based on the characteristics of the highlighted program listing further

comprises creating the preference profile based on the title of the highlighted program listing.

204. (Previously presented) The method of claim 202 wherein creating the preference profile based on the characteristics of the highlighted program listing further comprises creating the preference profile based on the genre of the highlighted program listing.

205. (Previously presented) The method of claim 202 wherein creating the preference profile based on the characteristics of the highlighted program listing further comprises creating the preference profile based on the channel of the highlighted program listing.

206. (Previously presented) The method of claim 202 wherein creating the preference profile based on the characteristics of the highlighted program listing further comprises creating the preference profile based on the rating of the highlighted program listing.

207. (Previously presented) The method of claim 184 further comprising:

allowing the user to tune to a selected program;
and

modifying a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated based on the characteristics of the selected program.

208. (Previously presented) The method of claim 184 further comprising:

allowing the user to highlight a given program listing; and

modifying a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated based on the characteristics of the highlighted program listing.

209. (Previously presented) The method of claim 184 further comprising providing a profiles display with which the user may modify a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated.

210. (Cancelled)

211. (Previously presented) The method of claim 184 wherein displaying the hot list further comprises displaying the hot list sorted by start time.

212. (Previously presented) The method of claim 184 wherein displaying the hot list further comprises displaying the hot list sorted by channel.

213. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[210]] 184 wherein displaying the hot list further comprises displaying the hot list sorted by priority.

214. (Previously presented) The method of claim 213 wherein displaying the hot list sorted by priority further

comprises displaying the hot list with pay-per-view programming having highest priority and being listed first.

215. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 further comprising allowing tuning to certain channels based on the selected preference attributes and selected preference levels.

216. (Previously presented) The method of claim 215 further comprising providing an option of specifying a sort order for each of the selected preference attributes.

217. (Previously presented) The method of claim 216 further comprising allowing tuning to certain channels based on the specified sort order.

218. (Previously presented) The method of claim 184 further comprising monitoring which programs are watched by the user.

219. (Previously presented) The method of claim 218 wherein monitoring which programs are watched by the user further comprises monitoring viewing times, channels, and frequencies.

220. (Previously presented) The method of claim 218 further comprising automatically modifying a preference profile based on which programs are watched by the user.

221. (Previously presented) The method of claim 220 further comprising providing an opportunity to review and modify automatic profile modifications made by the step of automatically modifying.

222. (Previously presented) The method of claim 220 further comprising disabling the step of automatically modifying.

223. (Previously presented) The method of claim 184 further comprising providing a personal identification number setup screen.

224. (Previously presented) The method of claim 223 wherein providing the personal identification number setup screen further comprises providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile.

225. (Previously presented) The method of claim 224 wherein providing the personal identification number options further comprises setting whether a personal identification number is required for activating the profile.

226. (Previously presented) The method of claim 224 wherein providing the personal identification number options further comprises setting whether a personal identification number is required for deactivating the profile.

227. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 further comprising providing a personal identification number setup screen, wherein providing the personal identification number options further comprises:

providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile with which

the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

setting whether a personal identification number is required for viewing which preference attributes are associated with the profile.

228. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 further comprising providing a personal identification number setup screen, wherein providing the personal identification number options further comprises:

providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

setting whether a personal identification number is required for modifying which preference attributes have an associated preference level of illegal.

229. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 further comprising providing a personal identification number setup screen, wherein providing the personal identification number options further comprises:

providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

setting whether a personal identification number is required for modifying which preference attributes have an associated preference level of mandatory.

230. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 further comprising providing a personal identification number setup screen, wherein providing the personal identification number options further comprises:

providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

setting whether a personal identification number is required for modifying like and dislike preference levels.

231. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting a given airing of a program as a preference attribute.

232. (Previously presented) The method of claim 231 further comprising allowing the given airing of the program selected as a preference attribute to expire after the program has been aired.

233. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option

of selecting a broadcast characteristic as a preference attribute.

234. (Previously presented) The method of claim 233 wherein providing the option of selecting a broadcast characteristic as a preference attribute further comprises providing closed-captioning as a preference attribute.

235. (Previously presented) The method of claim 233 wherein providing the option of selecting a broadcast characteristic as a preference attribute further comprises providing second audio program as a preference attribute.

236. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 further comprising providing an option of specifying a sort order for each of the selected preference attributes.

237. (Previously presented) The method of claim 236 further comprising displaying the list of programming based on the specified sort order.

238. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 further comprising providing the user with an option of selecting a preference scope.

239. (Previously presented) The method of claim 238 further comprising displaying the list of programming based on the selected preference scope.

240. (Previously presented) The method of claim 238 further comprising allowing tuning to certain channels based on the selected preference scope.

241. (Previously presented) The method of claim 238 wherein providing the user with the option of selecting the preference scope further comprises selecting a preference scope selected from the group consisting of: narrow scope, moderate scope, and wide scope.

242. (Previously presented) The method of claim 238 wherein the preference levels include like, dislike, illegal, and mandatory, and wherein providing the user with the option of selecting the preference scope further comprises selecting a preference scope that includes liked programs that are not more disliked and that have all mandatory attributes and no illegal attributes.

243. (Previously presented) The method of claim 238 wherein the preference levels include like, dislike, illegal, and mandatory, and wherein providing the user with the option of selecting the preference scope further comprises selecting a preference scope that includes programs that have no disliked preference attributes and that have all mandatory attributes and no illegal attributes.

244. (Previously presented) The method of claim 238 wherein the preference levels include like, dislike, illegal, and mandatory, and wherein providing the user with the option of selecting the preference scope further comprises selecting a preference scope that includes programs that have all mandatory attributes and no illegal attributes.

245. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality

of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting a type of channel as a preference attribute.

246. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting a program series as a preference attribute.

247. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting a genre of programming as a preference attribute.

248. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting at least one rating as a preference attribute.

249. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting a given actor or actress as a preference attribute.

250. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting a given topic as a preference attribute.

251. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option

of selecting a word in a program description as a preference attribute.

252. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting a given program start time as a preference attribute.

253. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting a range of broadcast times as a preference attribute.

254. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting original programming as a preference attribute.

255. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting a given language as a preference attribute.

256. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting a critics rating as a preference attribute.

257. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 further comprising providing an option of deselecting at least one of the selected preference attributes.

258. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 wherein the preference levels include at least like and dislike.

259. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 wherein the preference levels include at least strong like and weak like.

260. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 wherein the preference levels include at least strong dislike and weak dislike.

261. (Previously presented) The method of claim 184 further comprising providing an option for creating a master preference profile.

262. (Previously presented) The method of claim 184 wherein a plurality of preference profiles including a master preference profile are active, the method further comprising resolving conflicts between preference profiles in favor of the master preference profile.

263. (Previously presented)) The method of claim 184 wherein a master preference profile that is accessed by a master personal identification number is used to define certain television viewing preferences, the method further comprising displaying the hot list of programs based on the master profile.

264. (Previously presented) The method of claim 185 wherein a master preference profile that is accessed by a master personal identification number is used to define certain television viewing preferences, wherein displaying the hot list of programs further comprises displaying the hot list of programs based on selected preference attributes and selected preference levels in the master profile.

265. (Previously presented) The method of claim 184 further comprising providing an opportunity for setting non-program settings associated with the preference profile.

266. (Previously presented) The method of claim 184 further comprising providing an opportunity for setting non-program settings associated with the preference profile, wherein the non-program settings include audio settings for the user television equipment.

267. (Previously presented) The method of claim 184 further comprising providing an opportunity for setting non-program settings associated with the preference profile, wherein the non-program settings include display settings.

268. (Previously presented) The method of claim 184 further comprising:

providing an opportunity for creating multiple preference profiles;

providing an option of selecting which of the profiles to make active; and

providing access to a messaging service based on information on which profile is active.

269. (Previously presented) The method of claim 184 wherein the hot list includes at least one program with an active non-expired reminder.

270. (Previously presented) The method of claim 184 further comprising allowing the user to tune to a program on the hot list.

271. (Previously presented) The method of claim 184 further comprising allowing the user to direct the television program guide system to display the hot list.

272. (Currently amended) A system in which an interactive television program guide is implemented, the system comprising user television equipment configured to:

provide an option for a user to create a preference profile that is indicative of the user's television programming interests;

provide an option for the user to display a hot list a predetermined period of time before the scheduled broadcast times of programs on the hot list;

provide an option for the user to adjust the predetermined period of time; and

display the hot list of programs on the display, wherein all of the programs on the hot list are based on the user's preference profile and all of the programs on the hot

list are substantially currently available for viewing by the user.

273. (Previously presented) The system of claim 272 wherein the user equipment configured to provide the option for the user to create the preference profile is further configured to:

provide an option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes that are indicative of the user's television programming interests; and

provide an option for the user to select one of at least several preference levels for each of the plurality of selected preference attributes, wherein the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated with the preference profile.

274. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide an option of selecting a preference scope that is associated with the preference profile.

275. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein there are multiple profiles, wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide an option of selecting which of the profiles to make active.

276. (Previously presented) The system of claim 275 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide turning on an auto-reminders feature.

277. (Previously presented) The system of claim 276 wherein a given one of the profiles is active, wherein the user equipment is further configured to display automatic reminders when the auto-reminders feature is turned on based on the active profile just prior to the scheduled broadcast times of programs satisfying the active profile.

278. (Previously presented) The system of claim 277 wherein the user equipment is further configured to:

provide a view now option for programs for which automatic reminders are displayed; and

tune to a given one of the programs for which the automatic reminders are displayed when the user selects the view now option for that program.

279. (Previously presented) The system of claim 275 wherein at least two of the preference profiles are active, and wherein the user equipment when configured to display the hot list of programs based on the at least two preference profiles is further configured to indicate which of the programs in the hot list of programs satisfy which of the preference profiles.

280. (Previously presented) The system of claim 279 wherein the user equipment when configured to indicate is further configured to list the programs that satisfy one of the two profiles using one color and the programs that satisfy the other of the two profiles using another color.

281. (Previously presented) The system of claim 279 wherein the user equipment when configured to indicate is

further configured to list the programs that satisfy one of the two profiles using one pattern and the programs that satisfy the other of the two profiles using another pattern.

282. (Previously presented) The system of claim 279 wherein the user equipment when configured to indicate is further configured to list the programs that satisfy one of the two profiles using one icon and the programs that satisfy the other of the two profiles using another icon.

283. (Previously presented) The system of claim 275 wherein the user equipment when configured to display the hot list of programs is further configured to display the hot list of programs based on the multiple profiles.

284. (Previously presented) The system of claim 275 wherein the user equipment is further is further configured to allow tuning to certain channels based on the multiple profiles.

285. (Previously presented) The system of claim 272 wherein the user equipment is further configured to allow the user to tune to a selected program, wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the option of creating the preference profile is further configured to create the preference profile based on characteristics of the selected program.

286. (Previously presented) The system of claim 285 wherein the user equipment when configured to create the preference profile based on the characteristics of the selected

program is further configured to create the preference profile based on the title of the selected program.

287. (Previously presented) The system of claim 285 wherein the user equipment when configured to create the preference profile based on the characteristics of the selected program is further configured to create the preference profile based on the genre of the selected program.

288. (Previously presented) The system of claim 285 wherein the user equipment when configured to create the preference profile based on the characteristics of the selected program is further configured to create the preference profile based on the channel of the selected program.

289. (Previously presented) The system of claim 285 wherein the user equipment when configured to create the preference profile based on the characteristics of the selected program further is further configured to create the preference profile based on the rating of the selected program.

290. (Previously presented) The system of claim 272 wherein the user equipment is further configured to allow the user to highlight a given program listing, wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the option of creating the preference profile is further configured to create the preference profile based on characteristics of the highlighted program listing.

291. (Previously presented) The system of claim 290 wherein the user equipment when configured to create the preference profile based on the characteristics of the

highlighted program listing is further configured to create the preference profile based on the title of the highlighted program listing.

292. (Previously presented) The system of claim 290 wherein the user equipment when configured to create the preference profile based on the characteristics of the highlighted program listing is further configured to create the preference profile based on the genre of the highlighted program listing.

293. (Previously presented) The system of claim 290 wherein the user equipment when configured to create the preference profile based on the characteristics of the highlighted program listing is further configured to create the preference profile based on the channel of the highlighted program listing.

294. (Previously presented) The system of claim 290 wherein the user equipment when configured to create the preference profile based on the characteristics of the highlighted program listing is further configured to create the preference profile based on the rating of the highlighted program listing.

295. (Previously presented) The system of claim 272 wherein the user equipment is further configured to:

allow the user to tune to a selected program;
and

modify a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated based on the characteristics of the selected program.

296. (Previously presented) The system of claim 272 wherein the user equipment is further configured to:

allow the user to highlight a given program listing; and

modify a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated based on the characteristics of the highlighted program listing.

297. (Previously presented) The system of claim 272 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide a profiles display with which the user may modify a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated.

298. (Canceled)

299. (Previously presented) The system of claim 272 wherein the user equipment when configured to display the hot list is further configured to display the hot list sorted by start time.

300. (Previously presented) The system of claim 272 wherein the user equipment when configured to display the hot list is further configured to display the hot list sorted by channel.

301. (Currently amended) The system of claim [298]
272 wherein the user equipment when configured to display the hot list is further configured to display the hot list sorted by priority.

302. (Previously presented) The system of claim 301 wherein the user equipment when configured to display the hot list sorted by priority is further configured to display the hot list with pay-per-view programming having highest priority and being listed first.

303. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the user equipment is further configured to allow tuning to certain channels based on the selected preference attributes and selected preference levels.

304. (Previously presented) The system of claim 303 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide an option of specifying a sort order for each of the selected preference attributes.

305. (Previously presented) The system of claim 304 wherein the user equipment is further configured to allow tuning to certain channels based on the specified sort order.

306. (Previously presented) The system of claim 272 wherein the user equipment is further configured to monitor which programs are watched by the user.

307. (Previously presented) The system of claim 306 wherein the user equipment when configured to monitor which

programs are watched by the user is further configured to monitor viewing times, channels, and frequencies.

308. (Previously presented) The system of claim 306 wherein the user equipment is further configured to automatically modify a preference profile based on which programs are watched by the user.

309. (Previously presented) The system of claim 308 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide an opportunity to review and modify automatic profile modifications when configured to automatically modify the preference profile.

310. (Previously presented) The system of claim 308 wherein the user equipment is further configured to disable the automatic modification.

311. (Previously presented) The system of claim 272 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide a personal identification number setup screen.

312. (Previously presented) The system of claim 311 wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the personal identification number setup screen is further configured to provide a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile.

313. (Previously presented) The system of claim 312 wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the personal identification number options is further configured to

set whether a personal identification number is required for activating the profile.

314. (Previously presented) The system of claim 312 wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the personal identification number options is further configured to set whether a personal identification number is required for deactivating the profile.

315. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide a personal identification number setup screen, wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the personal identification number options is further configured to:

provide a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

set whether a personal identification number is required for viewing which preference attributes are associated with the profile.

316. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide a personal identification number setup screen, wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the personal identification number options is further configured to:

provide a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile with which

the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

set whether a personal identification number is required for modifying which preference attributes have an associated preference level of illegal.

317. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide a personal identification number setup screen, wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the personal identification number options is further configured to:

provide a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

set whether a personal identification number is required for modifying which preference attributes have an associated preference level of mandatory.

318. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide a personal identification number setup screen, wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the personal identification number options is further configured to:

provide a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

set whether a personal identification number is required for modifying like and dislike preference levels.

319. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes is further configured to provide an option of selecting a given airing of a program as a preference attribute.

320. (Previously presented) The system of claim 319 wherein the user equipment is further configured to allow the given airing of the program selected as a preference attribute to expire after the program has been aired.

321. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes is further configured to provide an option of selecting a broadcast characteristic as a preference attribute.

322. (Previously presented) The system of claim 321 wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the option of selecting a broadcast characteristic as a preference attribute is further configured to provide closed-captioning as a preference attribute.

323. (Previously presented) The system of claim 321 wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the option of selecting a broadcast characteristic as a preference attribute is further configured to provide second audio program as a preference attribute.

324. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide an option of specifying a sort order for each of the selected preference attributes.

325. (Previously presented) The system of claim 324 wherein the user equipment is further configured to display the list of programming based on the specified sort order.

326. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the user equipment is further configured to display the user with an option of selecting a preference scope.

327. (Previously presented) The system of claim 326 wherein the user equipment is further configured to display the list of programming based on the selected preference scope.

328. (Previously presented) The system of claim 326 wherein the user equipment is further configured to allow tuning to certain channels based on the selected preference scope.

329. (Previously presented) The system of claim 326 wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the user with the option of selecting the preference scope is further configured to select a preference scope selected from the group consisting of: narrow scope, moderate scope, and wide scope.

330. (Previously presented) The system of claim 326 wherein the preference levels include like, dislike, illegal, and mandatory, and wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the user with the option of selecting the preference

scope is further configured to select a preference scope that includes liked programs that are not more disliked and that have all mandatory attributes and no illegal attributes.

331. (Previously presented) The system of claim 326 wherein the preference levels include like, dislike, illegal, and mandatory, and wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the user with the option of selecting the preference scope is further configured to select a preference scope that includes programs that have no disliked preference attributes and that have all mandatory attributes and no illegal attributes.

332. (Previously presented) The system of claim 326 wherein the preference levels include like, dislike, illegal, and mandatory, and wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the user with the option of selecting the preference scope is further configured to select a preference scope that includes programs that have all mandatory attributes and no illegal attributes.

333. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes is further configured to provide an option of selecting a type of channel as a preference attribute.

334. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the option for the user to select a plurality of preference

attributes is further configured to provide an option of selecting a program series as a preference attribute.

335. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes is further configured to provide an option of selecting a genre of programming as a preference attribute.

336. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes is further configured to provide an option of selecting at least one rating as a preference attribute.

337. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes is further configured to provide an option of selecting a given actor or actress as a preference attribute.

338. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes is further configured to provide an option of selecting a given topic as a preference attribute.

339. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes is further configured to provide an option of

selecting a word in a program description as a preference attribute.

340. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes is further configured to provide an option of selecting a given program start time as a preference attribute.

341. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes is further configured to provide an option of selecting a range of broadcast times as a preference attribute.

342. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes is further configured to provide an option of selecting original programming as a preference attribute.

343. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes is further configured to provide an option of selecting a given language as a preference attribute.

344. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the user equipment when configured to provide the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes is further configured to provide an option of selecting a critics rating as a preference attribute.

345. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide an option of deselecting at least one of the selected preference attributes.

346. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the preference levels include at least like and dislike.

347. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the preference levels include at least strong like and weak like.

348. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein the preference levels include at least strong dislike and weak dislike.

349. (Previously presented) The system of claim 272 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide an option for creating a master preference profile.

350. (Previously presented) The system of claim 272 wherein a plurality of preference profiles including a master preference profile are active, wherein the user equipment is further configured to resolve conflicts between preference profiles in favor of the master preference profile.

351. (Previously presented) The system of claim 272 wherein a master preference profile that is accessed by a master personal identification number is used to define certain television viewing preferences, wherein the user equipment is

further configured to display the hot list of programs based on the master profile.

352. (Previously presented) The system of claim 273 wherein a master preference profile that is accessed by a master personal identification number is used to define certain television viewing preferences, wherein the user equipment when configured to display the hot list of programs is further configured to display the hot list of programs based on selected preference attributes and selected preference levels in the master profile.

353. (Previously presented) The system of claim 272 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide an opportunity for setting non-program settings associated with the preference profile.

354. (Previously presented) The system of claim 272 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide an opportunity for setting non-program settings associated with the preference profile, wherein the non-program settings include audio settings for the user television equipment.

355. (Previously presented) The system of claim 272 wherein the user equipment is further configured to provide an opportunity for setting non-program settings associated with the preference profile, wherein the non-program settings include display settings.

356. (Previously presented) The system of claim 272 wherein the user equipment is further configured to:

provide an opportunity for creating multiple preference profiles;

provide an option of selecting which of the profiles to make active; and

provide access to a messaging service based on information on which profile is active.

357. (Previously presented) The system of claim 272 wherein the hot list includes at least one program with an active non-expired reminder.

358. (Previously presented) The system of claim 272 wherein the user equipment is further configured to allow the user to tune to a program on the hot list.

359. (Previously presented) The system of claim 272 wherein the user equipment is further configured to allow the user to direct the television program guide system to display the hot list.

360. (Currently amended) Machine-readable media for use in a television program guide system in which a television program guide system is implemented on user television equipment, wherein the media is encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising:

providing an option for a user to create a preference profile that is indicative of the user's television programming interests;

providing an option for the user to display a hot list a predetermined period of time before the scheduled broadcast times of programs on the hot list;

providing an option for the user to adjust the predetermined period of time; and

displaying the hot list of programs on the user television equipment, wherein all of the programs on the hot list are based on the user's preference profile and all of the programs on the hot list are substantially currently available for viewing by the user.

361. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 360 wherein providing the option for the user to create the preference profile further comprises:

providing an option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes that are indicative of the user's television programming interests; and

providing an option for the user to select one of at least several preference levels for each of the plurality of selected preference attributes, wherein the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated with the preference profile.

362. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising providing an option of selecting a preference scope that is associated with the preference profile.

363. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 wherein there are multiple profiles, the media further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising providing an option of selecting which of the profiles to make active.

364. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 363 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising turning on an auto-reminders feature.

365. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 364 wherein a given one of the profiles is active, the media further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising displaying automatic reminders when the auto-reminders feature is turned on based on the active profile just prior to the scheduled broadcast times of programs satisfying the active profile.

366. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 365 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising:

providing a view now option for programs for which automatic reminders are displayed; and

tuning to a given one of the programs for which the automatic reminders are displayed when the user selects the view now option for that program.

367. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 363 wherein at least two of the preference

profiles are active, and wherein displaying the hot list of programs based on the at least two preference profiles further comprises indicating which of the programs in the hot list of programs satisfy which of the preference profiles.

368. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 367 wherein indicating comprises listing the programs that satisfy one of the two profiles using one color and the programs that satisfy the other of the two profiles using another color.

369. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 367 wherein indicating comprises listing the programs that satisfy one of the two profiles using one pattern and the programs that satisfy the other of the two profiles using another pattern.

370. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 367 wherein indicating comprises listing the programs that satisfy one of the two profiles using one icon and the programs that satisfy the other of the two profiles using another icon.

371. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 363 wherein displaying the hot list of programs further comprises displaying the hot list of programs based on the multiple profiles.

372. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 363 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method of allowing tuning to certain channels based on the multiple profiles.

373. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 360 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising allowing the user to tune to a selected program, wherein providing the option of creating the preference profile further comprises creating the preference profile based on characteristics of the selected program.

374. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 373 wherein creating the preference profile based on the characteristics of the selected program further comprises creating the preference profile based on the title of the selected program.

375. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 373 wherein creating the preference profile based on the characteristics of the selected program further comprises creating the preference profile based on the genre of the selected program.

376. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 373 wherein creating the preference profile based on the characteristics of the selected program further comprises creating the preference profile based on the channel of the selected program.

377. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 373 wherein creating the preference profile based on the characteristics of the selected program further comprises creating the preference profile based on the rating of the selected program.

378. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 360 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising allowing the user to highlight a given program listing, wherein providing the option of creating the preference profile further comprises creating the preference profile based on characteristics of the highlighted program listing.

379. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 378 wherein creating the preference profile based on the characteristics of the highlighted program listing further comprises creating the preference profile based on the title of the highlighted program listing.

380. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 378 wherein creating the preference profile based on the characteristics of the highlighted program listing further comprises creating the preference profile based on the genre of the highlighted program listing.

381. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 378 wherein creating the preference profile based on the characteristics of the highlighted program listing further comprises creating the preference profile based on the channel of the highlighted program listing.

382. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 378 wherein creating the preference profile based on the characteristics of the highlighted program listing further comprises creating the preference profile based on the rating of the highlighted program listing.

383. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 360 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising:

allowing the user to tune to a selected program; and

modifying a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated based on the characteristics of the selected program.

384. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 360 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising:

allowing the user to highlight a given program listing; and

modifying a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated based on the characteristics of the highlighted program listing.

385. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 360 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising providing a profiles display with which the user may modify a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated.

386. (Canceled)

387. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 360 wherein displaying the hot list further comprises displaying the hot list sorted by start time.

388. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 360 wherein displaying the hot list further comprises displaying the hot list sorted by channel.

389. (Currently amended) The machine-readable media of claim [[386]] 360 wherein displaying the hot list further comprises displaying the hot list sorted by priority.

390. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 389 wherein displaying the hot list sorted by priority further comprises displaying the hot list with pay-per-view programming having highest priority and being listed first.

391. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising allowing tuning to certain channels based on the selected preference attributes and selected preference levels.

392. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 391 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising providing an option of specifying a sort order for each of the selected preference attributes.

393. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 392 further encoded with machine-readable

instructions for performing the method comprising allowing tuning to certain channels based on the specified sort order.

394. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 360 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising monitoring which programs are watched by the user.

395. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 394 wherein monitoring which programs are watched by the user further comprises monitoring viewing times, channels, and frequencies.

396. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 394 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising automatically modifying a preference profile based on which programs are watched by the user.

397. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 396 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising providing an opportunity to review and modify automatic profile modifications made by the step of automatically modifying.

398. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 396 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising disabling the step of automatically modifying.

399. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 360 further encoded with machine-readable

instructions for performing the method comprising providing a personal identification number setup screen.

400. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 399 wherein providing the personal identification number setup screen further comprises providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile.

401. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 400 wherein providing the personal identification number options further comprises setting whether a personal identification number is required for activating the profile.

402. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 400 wherein providing the personal identification number options further comprises setting whether a personal identification number is required for deactivating the profile.

403. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising providing a personal identification number setup screen, wherein providing the personal identification number options further comprises:

providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

setting whether a personal identification number is required for viewing which preference attributes are associated with the profile.

404. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising providing a personal identification number setup screen, wherein providing the personal identification number options further comprises:

providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

setting whether a personal identification number is required for modifying which preference attributes have an associated preference level of illegal.

405. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising providing a personal identification number setup screen, wherein providing the personal identification number options further comprises:

providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

setting whether a personal identification number is required for modifying which preference attributes have an associated preference level of mandatory.

406. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising providing a personal identification number setup screen, wherein providing the personal identification number options further comprises:

providing a plurality of personal identification number options associated with a preference profile with which the selected preference attributes and the selected preference levels are associated; and

setting whether a personal identification number is required for modifying like and dislike preference levels.

407. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting a given airing of a program as a preference attribute.

408. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 231 further comprising allowing the given airing of the program selected as a preference attribute to expire after the program has been aired.

409. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises

providing an option of selecting a broadcast characteristic as a preference attribute.

410. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 409 wherein providing the option of selecting a broadcast characteristic as a preference attribute further comprises providing closed-captioning as a preference attribute.

411. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 409 wherein providing the option of selecting a broadcast characteristic as a preference attribute further comprises providing second audio program as a preference attribute.

412. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising providing an option of specifying a sort order for each of the selected preference attributes.

413. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 236 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising displaying the list of programming based on the specified sort order.

414. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising providing the user with an option of selecting a preference scope.

415. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 414 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising displaying the list of programming based on the selected preference scope.

416. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 414 further comprising allowing tuning to certain channels based on the selected preference scope.

417. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 414 wherein providing the user with the option of selecting the preference scope further comprises selecting a preference scope selected from the group consisting of: narrow scope, moderate scope, and wide scope.

418. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 414 wherein the preference levels include like, dislike, illegal, and mandatory, and wherein providing the user with the option of selecting the preference scope further comprises selecting a preference scope that includes liked programs that are not more disliked and that have all mandatory attributes and no illegal attributes.

419. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 414 wherein the preference levels include like, dislike, illegal, and mandatory, and wherein providing the user with the option of selecting the preference scope further comprises selecting a preference scope that includes programs that have no disliked preference attributes and that have all mandatory attributes and no illegal attributes.

420. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 414 wherein the preference levels include like, dislike, illegal, and mandatory, and wherein providing the user with the option of selecting the preference scope further comprises selecting a preference scope that includes programs that have all mandatory attributes and no illegal attributes.

421. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting a type of channel as a preference attribute.

422. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting a program series as a preference attribute.

423. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting a genre of programming as a preference attribute.

424. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting at least one rating as a preference attribute.

425. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting a given actor or actress as a preference attribute.

426. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting a given topic as a preference attribute.

427. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting a word in a program description as a preference attribute.

428. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting a given program start time as a preference attribute.

429. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting a range of broadcast times as a preference attribute.

430. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 wherein providing the option for the user to

select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting original programming as a preference attribute.

431. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting a given language as a preference attribute.

432. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 wherein providing the option for the user to select a plurality of preference attributes further comprises providing an option of selecting a critics rating as a preference attribute.

433. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising providing an option of deselecting at least one of the selected preference attributes.

434. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 wherein the preference levels include at least like and dislike.

435. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 wherein the preference levels include at least strong like and weak like.

436. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 wherein the preference levels include at least strong dislike and weak dislike.

437. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 360 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising providing an option for creating a master preference profile.

438. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 360 wherein a plurality of preference profiles including a master preference profile are active, the media further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising resolving conflicts between preference profiles in favor of the master preference profile.

439. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 360 wherein a master preference profile that is accessed by a master personal identification number is used to define certain television viewing preferences, the media further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising displaying the hot list of programs based on the master profile.

440. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 361 wherein a master preference profile that is accessed by a master personal identification number is used to define certain television viewing preferences, wherein displaying the hot list of programs further comprises displaying the hot list of programs based on selected

preference attributes and selected preference levels in the master profile.

441. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 360 further comprising providing an opportunity for setting non-program settings associated with the preference profile.

442. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 360 further comprising providing an opportunity for setting non-program settings associated with the preference profile, wherein the non-program settings include audio settings for the user television equipment.

443. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 360 further comprising providing an opportunity for setting non-program settings associated with the preference profile, wherein the non-program settings include display settings.

444. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 360 further comprising:

providing an opportunity for creating multiple preference profiles;

providing an option of selecting which of the profiles to make active; and

providing access to a messaging service based on information on which profile is active.

445. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 360 wherein the hot list includes at least one program with an active non-expired reminder.

446. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 360 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising allowing the user to tune to a program on the hot list.

447. (Previously presented) The machine-readable media of claim 360 further encoded with machine-readable instructions for performing the method comprising allowing the user to direct the television program guide system to display the hot list.